

REMARKS

Initially Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the indication that claims 7 and 8 are allowed and claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 5 and 7 will have been amended and claim 9-12 will have been added. Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 2002-250388 ("JP '388") in view of Korean Patent Publication No. 2002-045110 ("KR '110").

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims on these grounds, nevertheless, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 5 to clearly obviate the above-noted grounds of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicant notes that both JP '388 and KR '110 fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements as recited in amended claims 1 and 5. In particular, claims 1 and 5, as amended, both set forth a damper assembly of a glove box including, inter alia, a fixing member, including a main body, and a fitting protrusion formed unitarily and in one piece with the fixing member at one side of the fixing member, and extending in a direction opposite the main body.

Applicant submits that JP '388 and KR '110, alone or in any proper combination, lack any disclosure of *a fixing member, including a main body, and a fitting protrusion formed unitarily and in one piece with the fixing member at one side of the fixing member, and extending in a direction opposite the main body.*

The Examiner cites to JP '388, Figures 1 and 2, as purportedly disclosing a fixing member fixed to the rear part of the glove box (the Official Action, page 2, paragraph 2). However, the construction of the fixing member as disclosed in JP '388 is very different from a feature of an embodiment of the present disclosure. In this regard, the fixing member (4) disclosed in JP' 388 extends in the same direction as the main body (1). Therefore, the damper is positioned on the inside of the main body (Fig. 2). Thus, JP '388 does not disclose *a fixing member, including a main body, and a fitting protrusion formed unitarily and in one piece with the fixing member at one side of the fixing member, and extending in a direction opposite the main body.*

Further, the Examiner relies on KR '110 as purportedly teaching a damper being made of plastic. However, even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of JP '388 and KR '110, have been properly combined; the proposed combination still would not have resulted in the features of the embodiments of the present disclosure, as recited in amended claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4- 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper for all the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In regard to new claim 9, this contains substantially the same subject matter as claim 3 (indicated allowable in the previous Official Action), rewritten in independent form. However, the feature of the fixing member being fixed "by screws" has been deleted. The Examiner has not indicated that the recitation of the fixing member being fixed "by screws" has been relied upon in indicating the allowability of the claim. Accordingly, the objection of claim 3 is no longer proper for the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. Further, please note that the aforementioned feature has been rewritten as new dependent claim 13. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 13, contains the same subject matter as claim 3, which was indicated as being allowable in the previous Official Action.

In regard to claim 7, the claim has been amended to delete the recitation of the fixing member being fixed "by screws". The Examiner has not indicated that the recitation of the fixing member being fixed "by screws" has been relied upon in indicating the allowability of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is still in condition for allowance. Further, please note that the aforementioned feature has been rewritten as new dependent claim 12. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 12, contains the same subject matter as claim 7 prior to the present amendment, which was indicated as being allowable in the previous Official Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments herein, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 5, 7 and 9 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10-12 Applicant asserts that they

are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend from independent claims 1, 5 and 7 which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

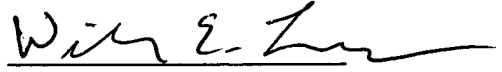
Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicant has argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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